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**Order Of Service – Sunday 10th October 2021**

**(Vivien Almond – Eaton Ford Methodist Church)**

Psalm 90 : 12 - 17

**12**Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom. **13**O Lord, come back to us! How long will you delay? Take pity on your servants! **14**Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives. **15**Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery! Replace the evil years with good. **16**Let us, your servants, see you work again; let our children see your glory. **17**And may the Lord our God show us his approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful!

Hymn No 137(StF) – New every morning is the love. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPZn-4ZyGJI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPZn-4ZyGJI)

Prayers – Lord God our guide for life filled with grace and love, yet we often forget and try to be our own guide, we’re often impatient when things don’t happen in our time, yet we know you are the only real timekeeper, and when we rely on your timing how much more fulfilled our lives become, so Lord we apologise for those times when we put ourselves and our own ideas before You, Lord help us to lean on You only, forgive all that lies heavy upon us this week.

Lord we thank you for taking these burdens from our lives, for renewing us, refreshing us and enabling us to start afresh, thank you Lord that you surround us with your love and pour your peace into our lives.

Lord we praise you, just because we want to, not because you force it upon us, not because it’s a rule to receiving your grace but just because that’s how we feel, praise your Glorious Name now and always. We offer our prayers through our ever loving, everlasting, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Lord’s Prayer/Alternative Survivor’sLord’s Prayer:- *O Lord you reside in glory, we glorify you and thank you for the knowledge of eternal life. Lord we long for the day when all people on earth do your will, We ask you to feed us on your love, grant us peace in our hearts when we find it difficult to forgive, help us to find the way to live in freedom, doing your will through Grace. For you are the God of love, peace and joy. Your Kingdom is the only place of true safety. Amen* (*Vivien Almond)*

Reading – Amos 5 : 6 – 7, 10 – 15

This reading from the Prophet Amos is reflected in many situations throughout history and the twenty first century is no different, there is still corruption, hate, deprivation, turning away from the Maker of the world, destruction of the planet is still very real. During the pandemic some of the stories that really made me doubt humanity, apart from the destruction by the virus itself, were pictures of beautiful countryside and expanses of sand destroyed by human rubbish, left behind for someone else to clean up, selfish, thoughtless, wasteful, much of that rubbish would cause loss of life to the animal and sea life kingdoms. How long does it take to pack the rubbish back into your bags and take it home, use bins provided, a friend commented to me, when we expressed our disgust at this, ‘it’s crazy, it’s lighter to take back than it was to bring along’. At the beginning of the pandemic some rushed to empty the supermarket shelves, no thought for sharing just selfishly stocking up, some left with unused food eighteen months later, and again recently the panic buying of fuel, filling up tanks already three quarters full, filling extra cans, whilst those who really needed fuel for their jobs were left high and dry.

On the other hand there were huge examples in the opposite direction, two young girls picking up rubbish everyday on their way to and from school, an almost hundred year old catching the nations heart walking tirelessly and with great dignity day after day, raising many millions of pounds and a young boy with cerebral palsy defying all the pain and difficulties to take on many challenges, someone I’ve never met before picking up my prescription from the chemist because I had to shield.

We don’t need a prophet to tell us that the world is on self-destruct, ruled by power and money, selfishness and greed, would those in control listen and really hear what God is saying, are we willing to be the prophets of today and like Amos speak up and be counted, say it as it is, the only true way to life is God’s way

Hymn No. 715(StF) – The right hand of God is writing. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUqaj0ND-Xg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUqaj0ND-Xg)

Reading Mark 10 : 17 – 31 (The Rich Man) Reading Hebrews 4 : 12 – 16

These two readings reinforce what Amos was saying over 700 years before, the Rich man hears he must turn his back on all his riches, give everything to those in need, I new nothing about the Kardashians, other than hearing the name, until I was watching an episode of Room 101, and someone wanted to put them into the room, they showed a clip of them and one of them was in a shop buying clothes, she spent fifteen thousand pounds, some people don’t earn that in a whole year, but she was upset that her sisters had talked her out of some items (goodness knows what the bill would have been!!!) but it made me think of how they would be if they met the risen Lord, would they be like the rich man, would their love of money out way the offering of real life, this story in Mark isn’t about having money, it’s about putting the love of money before the love of God.

The letter to the Hebrews reminds us that God sees everything, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and the final verses offer that amazing invitation to come boldly to God’s gracious throne.

When we see all the headlines that make the news we can become disheartened, disillusioned, and the world does have many wrongs, but there are many quietly going about every day, caring, loving, trying, praying, worshipping, sharing and just like the writer of Hebrews informing those with ears to hear the amazing story of life everlasting, eternal glory and guidance complete.

Are you like Amos ready to stand up to all that is wrong, like the writer of Hebrews sharing the Good news or like the rich man unwilling to give up whatever are your stumbling blocks to enter the Kingdom of God. Amen

Hymn No. 545(StF) – Be thou my vision. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ic8cOtpbF1E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ic8cOtpbF1E)

Prayer of intercession.

Lord God we pray for all who are truly seeking You, help us to use every opportunity to share Your word with those waiting for us.

Your Will be done. On earth as in Heaven.

Lord God we pray for all willing to stand up against evil, power and greed, who speak up for the voiceless, reach out to those on the outskirts of society

Your Will be done. On earth as in Heaven.

Lord God we pray that the worlds ideas of wealth, power and inhumanity will not divert us from Your ideas of Love, peace and grace, Lord keep us from turning from your challenge, due to impatience or laziness.

Your Will be done. On earth as in Heaven.

Lord God we pray for the disillusioned, disheartened and depressed, those who have lost their way and need someone to show them Your light in their darkness.

Your Will be done. On earth as in Heaven.

Lord accept our prayers through our ever-loving, everlasting, Lord Jesus Amen

Hymn No. 556(StF) – Just as I am. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTWgj5TdlJI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTWgj5TdlJI)

May the love of God enfold you and help you to keep your eyes upon God, ears upon Jesus and mind on the Holy Spirit Amen